



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Bi-Weekly Key Points

August 10, 2021

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- **New:** NCDHHS LHD Bi-Weekly Webinar 8 10 2021.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** NC COVID-19 Trends 8_10_2021.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ – 8.6.21-1.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place WebUpload_August2021_Wk2.xlsx (file attached)
- **New:** Meeting slides: COVID update LHD Medical directors.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** Deduplication Link Work Around.pdf (file attached)

Epi Update

- Virus transmission is increasing rapidly as seen in all metrics
- Increases are occurring in all age groups
 - Highest rates in 18–24 and 25–49 year–old age groups
 - Rates in children are approaching levels seen during fall/winter peak
 - It is expected that a higher proportion of cases will be in children compared with pre-vaccine waves as this is the least-vaccinated age group this group
- Disparities that have been present throughout the pandemic are persisting, including higher rates in historically marginalized populations
- Delta variant is predominating in North Carolina and nationally
- Even with highly effective vaccines, substantial number of post-vaccine cases are expected, given
 - Large number of people fully vaccinated
 - Emergence of more infectious Delta variant
 - Decreased use of other control measures (masks, social distancing)
- NCDHHS is exploring options for including post-vaccine case data on COVID-19 dashboard

Vaccine Update

- Unified Prevention Framework Actions Last Week
 - Call to Action Letters sent to medical providers in all 20 response counties through state professional associations and North Carolina Medical Board.
 - Several communications requests in Macon, Randolph, Davidson, Rowan, and Burke
 - Hoke requesting additional HMP support connecting them with resources in the County.



- Pfizer Expiration – Pfizer expected to submit to FDA on or before 8/15/21
 - August Pfizer Cliff ~600k+ doses set to expire.
 - Moving short, dated vaccine to spread out across the state next week in case of Pfizer expiration extension for ultra-cold stored vaccine.
 - Mark and hold policy in place for expiring vaccine.
 - Ordering long dated Pfizer vaccine plan to be finalized this Friday (8/13/21) to augment or respond to inventory gaps.
- Timeline
 - Moderna 12+ sometime in August/September. CDC logistics are ready to go, just waiting on Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) process.
 - Johnson & Johnson reorder available in September but need to use supply in August.
 - Pfizer
 - Potential Additional Dose EUA. Early to Mid-September
 - Immunocompromised
 - LTC 2.0
 - Full Approval Early September

Additional Doses Update

- Vaccine Administration details can now be logged for an additional dose beyond the standard number of doses in a series
- CVMS supports the functionality to document the additional dose administration in circumstances where it may need to be documented, but additional doses beyond the recommended series is not yet authorized through an EUA
- If you and your patient have jointly made a decision related to an additional dose outside of the EUA, no matter the reason, the administration details must be captured in CVMS

NC COVID Update

- With the recent update to NC COVID tool, we realized the Event ID Hyperlink is not working on the Person Summary screen. It happens when a user clicks on the Details Link on the Person Deduplication page to view the Person Summary. When a user makes an attempt to click on the Blue Hyperlink on that Person Summary, nothing happens. We are working on a fix for this. (screen shots for a workaround are attached).
- We recently learned that we missed some Walgreens labs that were imported over the weekend. These labs are from the month of July mainly. We are updating those, so you may see some labs that are outside of the follow-up window. We apologize for the inconvenience.
- The reactive results from some labs are not populating/triggering the earliest date of diagnosis. Since this date does not set up the earliest diagnosis date the cases will not be counted in the reports the LHDs are running. It is just the reactive results from the labs reporting those. More information to follow as we learn more and we are implementing an update to accommodate these results.
- We hope to implement an auto-report feature for all COVID events and COVID death events older than May 30, 2021. So please use the original assignment workflow to identify any cases that are earlier than May 30, 2021 and if you have completed your work assign these events to the state so they can be reported to CDC.



Contact Tracing Update

Because cases are rising so fast, it may not be able to staff up enough to call every case patient and contact. Therefore, LHDs should prioritize, based on guidance [here](#) and in the attached slides.

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to [SVC Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov)